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# Message Text

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12
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAM-01 /060 W
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FM AMEMBASSY LISBON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9344
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMCONSUL OPORTO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA
USMISSION NATO
DIA WASHDC
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 8228

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, PO
SUBJ: POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS: EANES BACKS THE GOVERNMENT

SUMMARY: AT CEREMONIES COMMEMORATING THE FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF THE NOV 25 COUP ATTEMPT, PRESIDENT RAMALHO EANES PROMISED TO FORCE OUT OF THE ARMED FORCES THOSE MILITARY WHO SERVE PARTISAN INTERESTS. EANES'S SPEECH, DELIVERED AMIDST A SHOW OF MILITARY SPIT AND POLISH THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY, EMPHASIZED THE ROLE OF THE MILITARY IN A DEMOCRATIC SOCIETY AND THE RESTORATION OF DISCIPLINE. EANES, JOINED BY PRIME MINISTER SOARES ON THE PODIUM, LENT IMPORTANT SUPPORT TO THE SOARES GOVERNMENT. END SUMMARY.

1. EANES TAKES STRONG STAND AT NOV 25 COMMEMORATIONS: THE FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF THE SUPPRESSION OF THE LEFTIST COUP ATTEMPT WAS MARKED BY MILITARY
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CEREMONIES THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY. PRESIDENT

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AND ARMED FORCES CHIEF EANES SENT A
MESSAGE TO THE ARMED FORCES WHICH WAS READ AT
COMMEMORATIVE CEREMONIES. EANES TOLD THE TROOPS
THAT THE NATION, IN A TIME OF ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES,
WOULD WATCH CAREFULLY TO SEE THAT THE ARMED FORCES
SPENT THEIR ELEVEN PERCENT OF THE NATIONAL BUDGET
EFFECTIVELY. HE SAID THAT THOSE MILITARY WHO
CANNOT FULFILL THEIR STRICTLY NON-PARTISAN AND
STABILIZING FUNCTION WILL BE FORCED OUT OF THE
ARMED SERVICES. IN A CEREMONY AT THE MILITARY
ACADEMY IN AMADORA OUTSIDE LISBON, PRESIDENT
EANES, WHO SHARED THE PLATFORM WITH PRIME MINISTER
SOARES, ASSEMBLY PRESIDENT FERNANDES, AND THE
MILITARY SERVICE CHIEFS, MADE THE FOLLOWING POINTS:
 -- PARTISAN MILITARY OUT: THOSE MILITARY WHO
PERSIST IN SERVING PARTISAN INTERESTS WILL HAVE
TO SHED THE MILITARY UNIFORM.
 -- MILITARY MISSION: THE ARMED FORCES, STRONGER
AND MORE COHESIVE, REAFFIRM THEIR COMMITMENT TO
THE DEFENSE OF DEMOCRACY, ECONOMIC RECOVERY, AND
THE COEXISTENCE OF DIFFERENT POLITICAL
AND IDEOLOGICAL OPTIONS.
 -- HIERARCHICAL STRUCTURE RESTORED: THE
TRADITIONAL HIERARCHY WILL BE PROGRESSIVELY
RESTORED.
 -- POLITICAL BODIES MUST ACCEPT THEIR RESPONSIBILITY:
THE ARMED FORCES MUST CEASE TO BE THE JUSTIFICATION
FOR THE INEFFICIENCY OR INDECISION OF THOSE WITH
RESPONSIBILITY FOR PORTUGAL'S RECOVERY.
 -- PRESIDENTIAL MANDATE WILL BE USED: THE MANDATE
CONFERRED UPON THE PRESIDENT ALLOWS THE PRESIDENT
TO USE ALL HIS POWER OF INTERVENTION AND THE TOTALITY
OF HIS EXPRESSED AND IMPLICIT POWERS SO THAT THE
INSTITUTIONS EFFECTIVELY SERVE THE PEOPLE.

2. MORE DISSENSION IN PS RANKS: LEADERS OF PS-
ORIENTED "OPEN LETTER" UNIONS WALKED OUT OF THE
NOV 25 RALLY THEY HAD CALLED TO PROTEST
TERRORIST ACTIVITIES. THE WALKOUT OCCURRED WHEN
PS LEFTWINGER CARMELINDA PERREIRA BEGAN
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READING A MESSAGE TO THE ASSEMBLY FROM FORMER
AGRICULTURE MINISTER LOPES CARDOSO. THE LABOR
LEADERS SUBSEQUENTLY ISSUED A STATEMENT SAYING
THE READING OF THE MESSAGE WAS A VIOLATION
OF RALLY GROUND RULES. THE ACTION BY PERREIRA,
ONE OF THE FIVE PS LEFTWINGERS SUSPENDED ON
NOV 22, COULD LEAD TO HER EXPLUSION FROM THE
PARTY; LOPES CARDOSO MAY ALSO BE DISCIPLINED.

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3. SOARES ON COMMUNIST THREAT: SOCIALIST LEADER SOARES LEFT FOR GENEVA NOV 26 TO TAKE PART IN THE SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL MEETING. ASKED TO COMMENT ON RELATIONS WITH COMMUNIST PARTIES, SOARES CHARACTERIZED THEM AS "VERY IMPORTANT," PARTICULARLY IN FRANCE, ITALY, AND SPAIN, WHERE COMMUNIST PARTIES ARE STRONG. IN PORTUGAL, HE ADDED, THE IMPORTANCE OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY DERIVED LESS FROM ITS STRENGTH AT THE POLLS THAN FROM ITS ORGANIZATION, WHICH WAS A CAUSE FOR CONCERN. PRIOR TO HIS DEPARTURE, SOARES PRIVATELY REMARKED TO THE AMBASSADOR THAT HE WAS ESPECIALLY CONCERNED WITH COMMUNIST INFILTRATION IN FRENCH AND BRITISH SOCIALIST PARTIES.

4. CUNHAL LEAVES ASSEMBLY: HAVING REAFFIRMED HIS CONTROL OF THE PARTY AT THE PCP CONGRESS, COMMUNIST LEADER CUNHAL QUIETLY GAVE UP HIS ASSEMBLY SEAT NOV 24 TO DEVOTE FULL TIME TO PCP HEADQUARTERS ACTIVITIES. CUNHAL, WHO ONCE SAID HE WOULD NEVER SIT IN A BOURGEOIS PARLIAMENT, WILL THUS BE SPARED THE DAILY BARBS OF ASSEMBLY COLLEAGUES.

COMMENT: EANES'S NOV 25 SPEECH, DELIVERED AMIDST A SHOW OF MILITARY SPIT AND POLISH THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY, EMPHASIZED THE ARMED FORCES'S ROLE IN A DEMOCRATIC SOCIETY AND THE RESTORATION OF DISCIPLINE. IN BOTH HIS SPEECH AND HIS MESSAGE TO THE ARMED FORCES, EANES MADE CLEAR THAT HE WOULD TOLERATE NO MORE POLITICAL PLOTTING BY THE MILITARY. EANES'S SPEECH WAS ALSO A RESPONSE TO CRITICISM THAT HE HAD REACTED TOO MILDLY TO MELO ANTUNES'S CALL FOR A POLITICALLY ACTIVE MILITARY. ALTHOUGH EANES NEEDLED THE GOVERNMENT FOR MOVING TOO SLOWLY, HIS SPEECH IS AN IMPORTANT BOOST TO THE SOARES
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GOVERNMENT AND A REPUDIATION OF PLOTTERS ON THE RIGHT AND LEFT.
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**TAGS:** PINT, PO, (EANES, ANTONIO DOS SANTOS RAMALHO)
**To:** STATE
**Type:** TE
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